

The New Zealand Sustainable Future Foundation  
Trust **Annual Report 2008** Mapping the  
landscape Best practice **Building a  
comprehensive library**  
Exploring a complex world  
Commission for the Future Archive On-Line  
**A vision of an overarching  
National Sustainable  
Development Strategy**  
Conversations and Interviews **Research  
reports on long-term  
sustainability in New Zealand**  
Students and graduates Developing  
scenarios of how New Zealand may  
look in 50 years **Helping to  
deliver a sustainable  
future for New Zealand**





When we started Sustainable Future in early 2004, our first task was to develop a way of working that not only delivered evidence-based reports about New Zealand's long-term future, but also provided students with a place to learn, and experts with a place to educate the next generation of thinkers.

In 2008, I am pleased to say the model works! Our hard work is now being recognised and many of our past students have gone on to travel the globe, begin their PhDs, or start their careers in government and the private sector. It has been a privilege to get to know them, and I can only hope they have learnt as much from us as we have learnt from them. In addition to the energy and commitment of both the students and the experts, highlights for the year include the publication of the first series of reports for *Project 2058* and the completion of our website upgrade.

Perhaps the biggest challenge has been to develop our own understanding of what being an independent and non-partisan think tank means. After much soul-searching, we came to the conclusion that we would not always be able to reflect both sides of every issue; as such an approach would not be cost-effective or timely. In contrast, what we could actively pursue was delivering evidence-based research on contested issues, and then drawing conclusions or making suggestions about what we found.

In the next twelve months we plan to build on our strengths and complete *Project 2058*.

Lastly, my thanks go to all those who have provided their time, support and encouragement. You sustain us.



**Wendy McGuinness**  
Chief Executive





# Our Vision

Sustainable Future is a non-partisan, not-for-profit research organisation specialising in issues affecting New Zealand. Our vision is to provide relevant and timely information that is complete and well-researched for those interested in exploring New Zealand's long-term future.

# Our Values

## **Inclusiveness**

Global, national, local, cultural, accessible, team approach, well-mannered, representative, aware of special needs and non-judgemental

## **Integrity**

Sustainable in what we do, ethical, professional, honest, accurate, responsive, follow-through and meet agreements

## **Non-partisan**

Balanced, neutral, independent, issue- and ideas-focused, thorough and unbiased

## **Relevance**

Inclusive, focused, positive, innovative, meaningful and succinct



# Our Projects

## **Project 2058**

Sustainable Future is exploring New Zealand's long-term future. This project is broken down into three parts:

Part 1 is research, Part 2 is the development of four scenarios and Part 3 is about strategy. Our aim is to prepare an overarching strategy for New Zealand, what the United Nations calls a National Sustainable Development Strategy. We hope to complete the project before the end of 2009.

## **Project 2008**

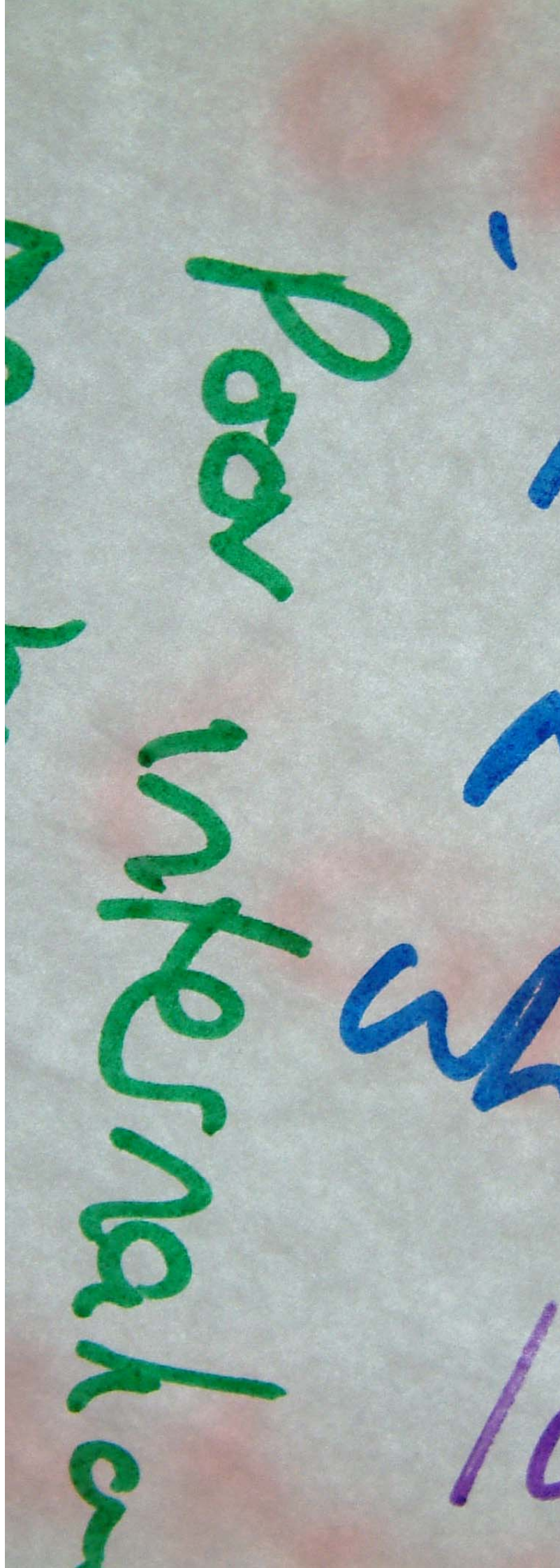
*Project 2008's* strategic aim is to promote ideas and initiatives that can be investigated and ideally implemented in 2008 in order to improve systems, feedback mechanisms and capacity-building so that New Zealand is 'fit for purpose'.

## **Project Genetic Modification**

The strategic aim of this project is to consider the past, evaluate the present and explore the future landscape of genetic modification in New Zealand. We published two reports in this project early in 2008.

## **Website**

In late 2007 we redesigned our website to be both a research tool for the project team and to provide information for New Zealanders interested in public policy. We especially thank Robert Appierdo, from Dnation, whose design helped us to achieve both objectives with style.





# Our Publications

Sustainable Future produces and publishes material in a range of multimedia formats with the view to influencing policy and/or informing interested parties about complex problems.

**Reports** contain our research and policy advice.

**Think Pieces** are concise pieces of writing to add to the wider dialogue on issues facing New Zealand.

**Submissions** are prepared in response to a public invitation to comment by Government.

**Newsletters** provide interested parties with a quick overview of what Sustainable Future has been doing.

**Interviews** record the opinion of one person, usually an expert, on a specific topic or issue.

**Conversations** focus on two people discussing issues in an explorative way.

**Presentations** are a record of Sustainable Future's public engagements, including film and slides.

**Multimedia** encompasses a range of other audiovisual material prepared for the general public.

Thomas L.  
Friedman

HOT, FLA

Tomorrow's Tourist

KAPLAN  
NORTON

THE STRATEGY-FO

ere



FUTURECAST

ROBERT J. SHAPIRO

JAMES CANTON, Ph.D.

THE EXTREME FUTURE

BELGARD  
RAYNER

SHAPING  
the  
FUTURE



palgrave  
macmillan

MARIAN SALZMAN  
IRA MATATHIA

TRENDS FOR THE FUTURE

NEXT  
NOW

## The Experts

Our external reviewers are individuals who are selected for their specialised knowledge of the particular topic (or aspect of a topic) being addressed in a publication. We refer to these experts as external reviewers, in order to acknowledge their work in shaping our reports, but not committing them to our views and opinions.

Importantly, without their help, which is provided at no cost, we could not generate the quality of debate we consider an independent think tank should deliver.

## Our Library

To assist us in our work, we remain committed to building a comprehensive library, dedicated to future thinking. Our focus is two-fold. We are collecting a number of old books and publications on past 'future thinkers' in New Zealand, including an extensive collection of Year Books (our oldest is 1896) and published material from the 'Commission for the Future' (1977-82). In addition, we are purchasing from overseas the very latest books on scenario planning and future studies, in order that we are at the cutting edge of thinking internationally. We welcome anyone with an interest in this area to visit us and peruse our growing collection.



“We’re all entitled to our opinions, but we are not entitled to our own facts.”

Professor/Ambassador/Senator Moynihan, USA.





# The Team

The team to date has included six undergraduate students, six graduate students, and four post-graduate students in a combination of full- and part-time positions.

**By late 2008, the team has included:** Aidan Beckett, Amelie Goldberg, Becky McGuinness, Caroline Ward, Dave Henley, Ella Lawton, Hanna Butler, Hayley Vujcich, Jamie Winiata, **Jean-Charles Perquin**, Jo Foster, Jo Garty, Joe McCarter, **Lisa Bazalo**, Lucy Foster, Mahina-a-Rangi Baker, Maree Grigg, Mark Newton, Miriam White, Nick Preval, Nicola Bradshaw, Patrick Farrell, **Paul Neason**, Perrine Gilkinson, Richard Shonakan, Sarah Garty, Sarah Wilson, **Stephanie Versteeg**, Willow Henderson and more...

# Scholarships

In 2007–2008 we were pleased to contribute to Ella Lawton’s Masters programme in ‘Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability’ at the Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden.

# Donations

Although our focus is clearly New Zealand, we support those trying to make a difference in developing nations. We achieve this balance by providing scholarships and donations to passionate young people seeking to widen their horizons. In late 2007, we were pleased to assist Jared White as a trainee doctor with the ‘Christian Blind Mission’ in Mangu, a small rural hospital near Jos, the capital of Plateau State in Nigeria.



Outside Jos, Nigeria. (Photo courtesy of Jared White)



# Charitable Trust

Sustainable Future Limited is owned by The New Zealand Sustainable Future Foundation Trust. Both Charitable entities have been registered under the Charities Act 2005 and qualify for the charitable purposes exemption in sections CW 41 and 42 of the Income Tax Act 2007.

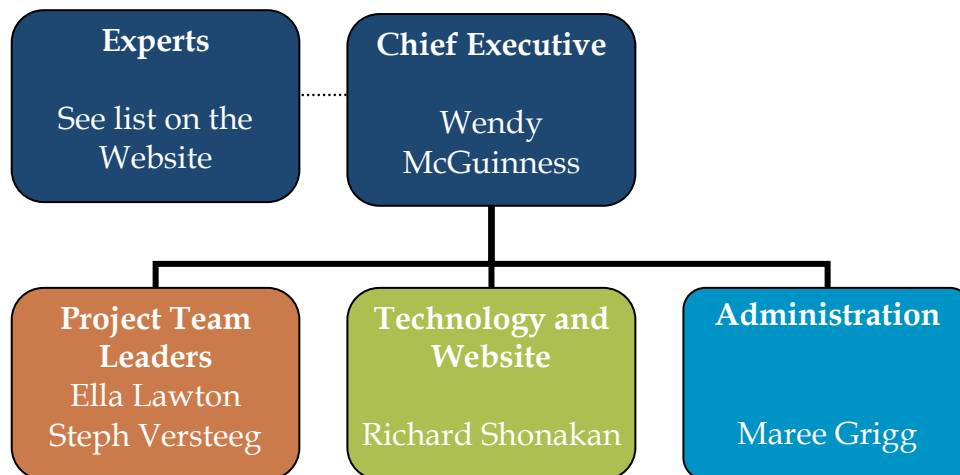
The Foundation trustees are Mark and Wendy McGuinness. The financial statements were prepared by BDO Spicers, Wellington, and due to costs, were unaudited.

## Financial Statements 2008



	Sustainable Future Limited	The New Zealand Sustainable Future Foundation Trust
<b>Total Revenue</b>	306	-
<b>Less Expenses</b>		
- Wages	228,695	
- Cost of Publications	45,611	
- Special Project: Report Template	7,484	
- Special Project: Conversations	10,000	
- Special Project: Website	9,533	
- Media Expenses	8,998	
- Telephone and Internet	10,422	
- Secretarial & Accountancy Fees	11,946	
- Scholarship	2,500	
- Donations - New Zealand	1,040	
- Donations - International	5,000	
- Cost of Books & Publications	1,347	
- Depreciation	1,635	
- Office Expenses	33,995	
- Other	3,067	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>381,273</b>	-
<b>Net Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>(380,967)</b>	
<b>Equity at Beginning of Year</b>	-	
<b>Equity at End of Year</b>	<b>(\$380,967)</b>	

# Our Structure



# Our Office Footprint

In order to reduce our office footprint, we have instigated the following practices:

- Recycled printer paper
- Biodegradable cleaning products
- Double-side printing for large documents/ printing to used scrap paper for unofficial documents
- Recycling system – all our bottles, cartridges, cardboard and paper are taken away to be recycled
- Bokashi compost – all of our food and green waste goes into a Bokashi compost container. The container is taken home by one of our staff members each week to bury in their garden at home.

In addition, we believe it is important to care for our natural environment. For Sustainable Future, this means contributing to a native planting programme on Arapawa Island in the Marlborough Sounds, New Zealand (see image overleaf).

# Our Location

We are situated in the Wellington Free Ambulance Building at 5 Cable Street, Wellington.

